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25X1

6 March 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Mexico - Central America - US: Mexican President Lopez Mateos told a US official on 4 March that Central America is the hemisphere's most likely target for new Communist efforts, and that he attaches great importance to President Kennedy's meeting this month in Costa Rica with the Central American and Panamanian presidents.

Lopez Mateos said that Central America is dangerously vulnerable and that only Costa Rica among the states of the area is stable politically and economically. He suggested that massive US assistance in projects that reach the people--particularly public works--is needed to show the Central Americans that the United States is not synonymous with the United Fruit Company, which he blamed for the slow progress of several countries.

The Mexican Government, which sees itself as the economic and political mentor of Central America, had planned to send an observer to the San Jose meeting until Guatemalan President Ydigoras objected.

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Iran: (A recent rash of tribal attacks on the gendarmerie and other government units in southern and north central Iran has Tehran worried.)

(Air and ground units, including an armored car company from Tehran, have been ordered to relieve a beleaguered gendarmerie outpost in Fars Province, and the armed forces' chief of staff for operations and the gendarmerie commander are going to Shiraz.)

(The incidents have been scattered over a wide area. Many of the seminomadic tribes fear the effect of the government's land reform program on their way of life, and also bitterly resent efforts to disarm them.)

(Although government forces probably can pacify the area, a prolonged campaign may be required which would be both embarrassing and costly to Tehran, and could seriously interfere with implementation of the Shah's reform program.)

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Sino-Indian Border: Peiping has acknowledged that an early negotiated settlement of the border dispute with India is unlikely and has indicated a desire to freeze the present situation along the frontier.

The Chinese in the last few days have emphasized the completion of their troop withdrawals to positions behind the line they held last September before their major offensive. They have promised to place only civilian administrators in the 20-kilometer demilitarized zone the Chinese have established and to leave four previously designated, especially sensitive, areas on the border free of all Chinese control.

New Delhi has been warned, however, that new clashes are possible if the Indians move up to the zone which the Chinese troops have evacuated. The Indians have been specifically cautioned to stay out of the designated sensitive areas.

(Map)

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South Africa: [Racial violence may increase sharply in the next few weeks.]

[There have been several reports that the leaders of the banned Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) have ordered a campaign of terror for March or April. Such a campaign would probably be undertaken by Poqo, a rapidly growing PAC organization which claims responsibility for a series of acts of violence against whites and alleged African "stooges" beginning last November.]

[Anti-white feeling has increased markedly in recent months among both urban and rural Africans. The agitation could spur disaffected groups in widely separate parts of South Africa to dramatic action, and the government might have to use considerable force to bring the Africans under control.]

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Britain-EEC: [Great Britain is still showing little interest in reaching an interim economic arrangement with the Common Market in place of full membership.]

[Following discussions last week in Bonn between British and West German economic officials, several of the German participants told the US Embassy they were disappointed by the passive attitude of the British and the very slow pace of the talks. A British official in Bonn has confirmed that London does not favor the various proposals for association with the EEC being floated by the Germans, Dutch, and Belgians, on the ground that French opposition to Britain in the EEC is basically political, not economic.]

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NOTE

Laos: [The neutralist faction has arranged for three International Control Commission flights each week from Vientiane to the Plaine des Jarres to alleviate Kong Le's logistics problems. Although trial flights on 27 February carried 14 tons of supplies to the neutralists without incident, ICC Chairman Avtar Singh notes that such activity is "extracurricular," and apparently is concerned over possible Pathet Lao reaction.]

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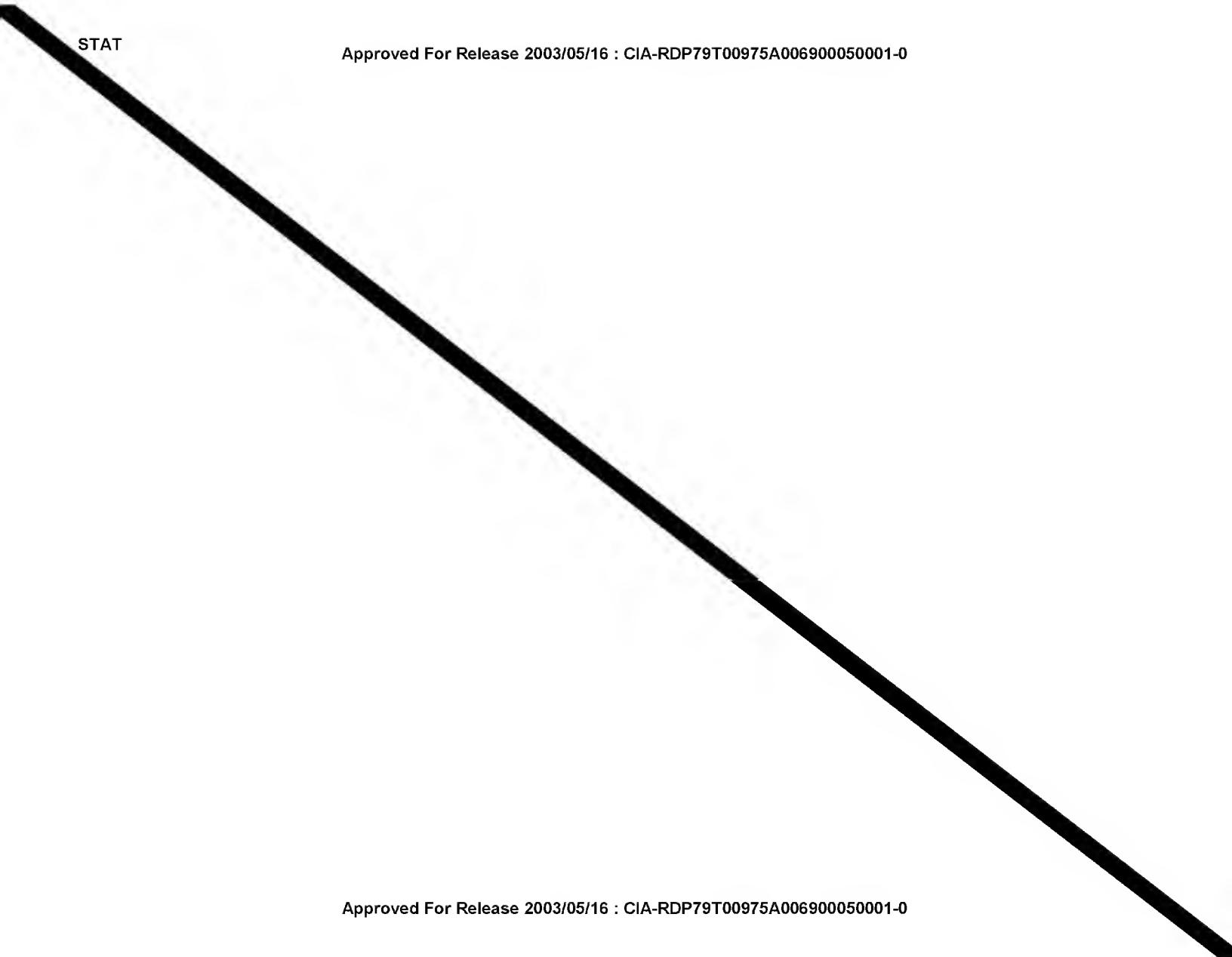
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